

# Western Rotorcraft

March 2011



## El Mirage Undergoes Resurfacing

The above aerial photo from Dave Bacon shows how the massive rainfall in California over the winter has a resurfacing of the El Mirage "Dry" Lake underway. The natural redistribution of the clay silt which happens during these floods is what brings us the pancake-flat playground we enjoy at the [Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In](#).



Meanwhile, the Salt Lake Valley is experiencing what the forecasters call "designer storms," (above,) dumping [feet of snow](#) on the ski areas in the mountains, but mostly rain in the valleys.

Whatever sort of winter it has been where you live, we're now just days away from the start of Spring on March 20. We've made it!



### Autogyro Models Come to US

Attendees at the [US Sport Aviation Expo](#) in Sebring in January were surprised to see gyroplanes manufactured by [Autogyro GmbH](#). Autogyro has apparently decided to enter the US market with 51%-eligible kits pending E-LSA. The following is excerpted from a post on the Rotary Wing Forum by Tim Adelman.

*Chesapeake Sport Pilot in Maryland, will be importing AutoGyro aircraft...The kits are initially going to be certified under the 51% rule. We currently have three kits in stock. Two MTO Sports (\$75K) and one Calidus (\$89K). These kits are complete, including engine and avionics. You will see a lot more on the website ([www.chesapeakesportpilot.com](http://www.chesapeakesportpilot.com)) in the next few weeks. We will also be at [Sun N' Fun](#) if you want to stop by. (Shown above: MTO3, photo by Norman Surplus, [gyroxgoesglobal.com](http://gyroxgoesglobal.com).)*

## Regional Report

Paul Plack, NW/Mtn Rep



PRA has opened up the private portion of the [Rotary Wing Forum](#) used by the board of directors to conduct business for read-only access by the regional reps. To the extent we're cleared to do so, we'll bring news back to the chapters when major decisions are made.

CFI Ron Menzie has left the board effective February 26 to focus his time and energies on his [flight training business](#). It is unlikely a replacement will be named before the board's next meeting at Bensen Days.

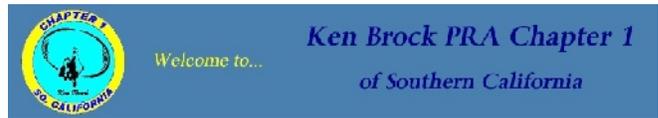
PRA now offers members free classifieds in *Rotorcraft*. Ads over 400 characters may be edited, but members are invited to send one JPEG photo with each ad for use if space permits. Submit to [editor@utahrotorcraft.org](mailto:editor@utahrotorcraft.org), and include your PRA member number. Also, [FlyAgainParts.com](#), a new classified service, is offering free classified ads to PRA members. The promo code and instructions can be found on the Members Only page at [www.pra.org](http://www.pra.org).



## Boom Training Webinar

Larry Neal of [The Butterfly, LLC](#) and Brian Booth of [North Texas Gyroplanes](#) discussed in great detail their plan to bring boom training back as a means to provide primary instruction to ultralight gyroplane customers during a webinar hosted by Chapter 2 on February 12.

Doug Barker hopes to have a similar operation running in northern Utah in time for [Rotors Over The Rockies](#) in June. If you missed the webinar, watch the archived video on the home page at [www.utahrotorcraft.org](http://www.utahrotorcraft.org), or simply click the photo above if you're reading this edition of Western Rotorcraft on a computer.



## February Chapter Report

We had our 1st meeting of 2011 on Saturday, February 12th. The meeting was called to order by the Vice President Teddy Udala.

During this first meeting we nominated members for the officers of the club for 2011. The 2011 officers are:

President – Terry Smith  
Vice President – Chuck Bagby  
Secretary/Treasurer – Karen Keene



Teddy is starting up the club newsletter, and we look forward to seeing that in the near future! The website for the chapter fly-in is still a work in progress. Rick Scobey, who is currently in the beginning stages of building an Ultralight Butterfly, offered his talents to help update the site, and will be working with Terry over the coming months to get it ready for [KBFFI](#).

The chapter glider will be getting some work done on it for use later this year. Mike Aubuchon, president of Chapter 76 in Hesperia, was one of our guests at the meeting and offered to donate webbing for the glider seat. Thanks Mike!

Also present at our first meeting was Richard, a trike flier, Dejan and his friend Nic.

After the meeting, the club went over to the hangar area and started a BBQ. What a great way to end a meeting!



## February 12 Minutes & Detail

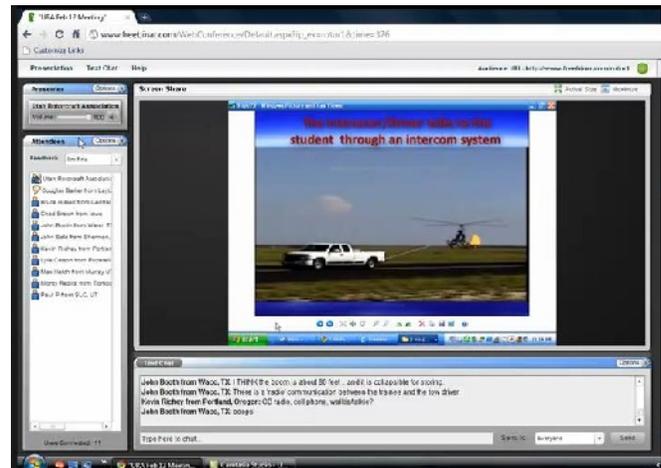
The February 12 meeting was called to order at 10:02am by President Doug Barker with four members and two guests in attendance via the Freebinar webmeeting platform. Treasurer Nate Oldham was not present, and Doug relayed for Nate that URA has a total of \$918.73 in all accounts. The report was accepted. New applications for full membership from Bruce Spradlin of Bonner's Ferry, ID and honorary membership from Cindy Plack of Murray, UT were accepted, and Doug appointed Cindy to chair the ROTR Awards Banquet Committee.

A discussion of seeking registration as a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Corporation ended in a poll which suggested a voluntary option to pre-pay dues for four years in a block would be a successful way to fund the necessary fees and associated costs. Doug estimates that six members renewing for a four-year block will allow us to move forward. (*Ed. note - Within the next three days, six members did so.*)

Doug announced that our March 12 meeting will be held in person at [Airgyro Aviation](#) at 10am MST. If internet connectivity allows, it will also be webcast. The technical program is tentatively scheduled to be a demonstration of the new [Mach 5](#) bluetooth aviation headset.

Doug led a discussion of upcoming regional events, and encouraged interested parties to carpool. The weekend of September 23-25, 2011 offers three competing events for enthusiasts in our area: The [Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In](#) in California, the Wendover (UT) Wings & Wheels Weekend, and a free airshow and open house being hosted by Hill Air Force Base in northern Utah. The relative potential for exposure of personal rotorcraft to the general public was discussed. Hill AFB drew an estimated 200,000+ spectators at its last event in June, 2009, but would provide an opportunity for static display only. Wendover would allow opportunities for demo flights, and be within the flight range of a typical gyroplane from the Salt Lake area. No conclusion was reached, but it appears there may be interest among members in attending all three events.

Members voted to approve approximately \$135 to fund awards at Rotors Over The Rockies 2011 in the same categories featured at the 2010 event. These are Grand Champion Rotorcraft, Reserve Grand Champion, and Dead Dinosaur (most observed flying) based on votes by the awards committee; Most



Distant Attendee with an Aircraft, based on MapQuest distance to home; Pilot & Machine, from voting by other pilots present at the event; and Peoples Choice, to be determined by votes cast by event visitors. All awards will be engraved plaques.

Doug announced that [Bob Miller Flight Training](#) has offered URA the opportunity to register members and guests at a discounted rate for an upcoming course on breaking down NTSB reports on aviation accidents, featuring four sessions on consecutive Tuesday nights. The \$99 course would be available for approximately \$77. Meeting guest (and PRA VP) Tim O'Connor inquired whether PRA members could be made eligible for the discount. URA Secretary Paul Plack agreed to find out. (*Ed. note - the discount is now available to URA and PRA members at \$77.95.*)

There was no additional business from anyone present, so Doug adjourned the meeting at 10:29am, allowing the start of a webinar presentation (above) by Larry Neal of The Butterfly, LLC, on his product line and plans to reintroduce boom (glider) training for ultralight gyroplane students. By the end of the webinar a total of 13 members and guests had participated online.

## Discount Training Opportunity

[Bob Miller Flight Training Online](#) is offering an unusual four-week webinar course, Tuesday nights starting March 15 from 5-7pm MDT. Bob will review classic accident files from the NTSB to find lessons of benefit to all pilots, regardless of aircraft type. Normally priced at \$99, [the course](#) is available to members of URA or PRA for \$77.95.

All that's needed to participate is a fast (> 350 Kbps) internet connection and a computer with speakers. Audio will also be available by telephone conference bridge. URA members can find the link on the front page at [www.utahrotorcraft.org](http://www.utahrotorcraft.org). PRA members can find it on the Members Only page at [www.pra.org](http://www.pra.org). Deadline for registration is March 11.

## **AZ Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15) February 5 Minutes & Detail**

Call to order at 11:25 AM by 2011 President Carl Matter. Also present: Teressa and Greg Shepherd, Britta Penca, Mark Rhoads, Dave and Helen Knudson, David Beaufaux, Ray Harstick.

Introductions were made: Visitors Teressa and Greg S. are from Winslow, AZ. Greg is dreaming about retiring and owning and flying a Sport Copter II, and is looking forward to his first ride in a gyro. Ray H. is a builder from Chicago and a PRA member with Ch 18. Ray is a contractor and is one of the volunteers who helped rebuild the control tower at Mentone several years ago. He showed pictures of his nearly completed CLT gyro – built using the Ch 18 compilation-of-ideas design. He is now ready to disassemble and get it out of his living room and is looking forward to flying it when he goes back to Chicago in the spring. He is excited about a new front fork and wheel/tire assembly he found at a surplus shop in Tucson and also brought the parts to show his progress on a gear box he is constructing for weed-eater motor powered pre-rotator assembly. New ARC member David B. told of a life long dream to fly and his disappointments with the fixed wing lessons he took in a Cessna years ago. He spoke about the exhilaration of flying in a towed gyro in the '60's in Minnesota. He thinks it is time to fulfill a life long desire to fly a gyro.

Unanimous vote to approve the minutes for the Jan. 8, 2011 meeting (as printed in *Western Rotorcraft*) – with the addition of election of officers for 2011:

President - Carl Matter  
Vice President -Britta Penca  
Secretary/Treasurer - Mark Rhoads

Treasurer's report: \$616.92 in the Vantage West savings account.

A discussion was held about e-mailing the roster with member information to all members. It was decided that a member should have the option to have their information excluded from a mailing. Carl will send a group email to find out who, if anyone would prefer to not have their information be shared with all members.

Insurance for the fly-in will be secured by Mark R. He also plans to check with the county airport manager to find out what if any insurance coverage is available for a fly-in event.

The award plaques for ARC days were discussed. They will be made from "granite" Corian with engraved plates glued on. Mark R will secure the backing and process it. Carl M will secure the brass

plate and will arrange for the engraving. Britta P suggested that instead of the AZ state outline, she would prefer that the plate specify "Chapter 15 – ARC days fly-in" and perhaps a gyro flying over a Saguaro cactus. 2 plaques will be awarded this year: "Pilot and Machine" & "Farthest Flown".

Britta P will contact Bruce Charnoff and Marion Springer about possibly making presentations at the fly-in. Britta P will arrange for local restaurants to sell nourishments starting Friday morning, and continuing through Sunday morning. Friday night will be potluck with Chapter 15 providing hot dogs.

Britta P has contacted the [San Manuel Lodge](#) and is holding 5 rooms for the nights of May 13 and 14 for folks coming into town for the fly-in. Dry camping will be available on the airport grounds. Ch 15 wants people to know there will be a porta-potty on one end of the field and there is a bathroom with running water at the other end, but no hook-ups for campers.

Carl M has a source for a very nice gyro decal. He will get a quote on prices by the next meeting. Ch 15 would like to sell them for a fundraiser and to give as raffle awards. Ray H mentioned that a gift certificate to Harbor Freight would be a nice raffle award. Britta P would like to have some non gyro related gift certificates included in the raffle to entice members of the public to purchase raffle tickets. Mark R noted that he thinks PRA stickers are a nice raffle prize. Tee shirts will also be sold.

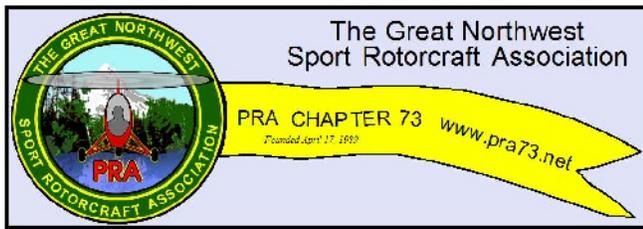
Mark R will update the flyer from last year's ARC days. Carl M has secured a raffle prize from CPS. They would like a copy of the new flyer, and then will send the donated item to Carl. Ray H suggested that the PRA website be included on the flyer.

Mark R is to speak with Parrish (assistant airport manager) to find out where he would like the campers to assemble for the fly-in.

Discussion and vote were held to move the April meeting to the 3rd weekend to accommodate the traditional campers at Coolidge for the annual dinner. Meeting to be held on April 16 at 11 AM at the Coolidge airport camping spot – south of the east/west taxiway. The annual dinner will be Kentucky Fried Chicken and will be at 5 PM the same day. Fly-in and drive in campers are encouraged.

Britta P encouraged the new president and the secretary to get together a week before each meeting to set up the agenda. The secretary has agreed to e-mail the agenda to all members.

Upcoming 2011 meetings:  
March 5, San Manuel – 11AM  
April 16, Coolidge– 11AM - Annual Dinner – 5 PM  
May 13-15, 2011 – ARC Days (no meeting)



## Western PRA Chapter Contacts

### Arizona

#15 Arizona Rotorcraft Club  
[Britta Pence](#)  
(520) 840-0951

### Arkansas

#6 Mid-South Rotorcraft Club  
[Thom Francis](#)  
(870) 403-2888

### California

#1 Ken Brock Rotorcraft Assoc.  
[Terry Smith](#), President

#31 San Diego Rotorcraft Club  
[John Rountree](#) (619) 743-6712

#58 Sierra Rotorcraft Club  
[Jim Burrow](#) (760) 394-1312

### Colorado

#38 Colorado Rotorcraft Assoc.  
Mark Shook ([Info](#))

### Oregon

#73 Great NW Sport Rotorcraft  
[Robert Johnson](#)  
(503) 665-4449

### Texas

#62 Lone Star Rotorcraft Club  
[Steve Weir](#)  
(832) 457-1785

#78 Texas Rotorcraft Assoc.  
[Bob Stark](#)  
(940) 564-2938

### Utah

#2 Utah Rotorcraft Assoc.  
[Doug Barker](#)  
(801) 444-3736

## February 12 Minutes & Detail

The meeting was called to order by Bob Johnson at 1:10pm. Project reports were discussed with those who had projects going. Treasurer's report was given and accepted by the group as read.

The dues were discussed. We decided that the electronic version of the newsletter dues would be \$20.00 and the paper version of the newsletter mailed to the person would be \$25.00. Minutes of our last meeting were accepted as printed in the last newsletter.

**Old Business** - Last month we discussed ways to increase our membership and how to get more people flying gyroplanes. Today it was decided to make business cards for the members to put in their wallets. That way we would have something to give to a prospective gyro nut, when a flyer was not available. We also decided to make our anniversary meeting in April, a time to invite new people to our meeting. It was stated that we need a two-place gyroplane and a CFI to be there and give low cost demo rides. Jim Vanek said he would do that. So, everyone invite your friends to come and join us that meeting. Please tell Bob, 503-665-4449, a few days before the meeting, how many visitors you will be bringing so the club can get enough chicken for all of you. Don't forget that the rest of the food is potluck, so bring a side dish. No donations are needed at that anniversary meeting, unless you want to.

At the last meeting Bob stated that Kevin wanted to have others buy in to his gyroplane, so we can have more people flying. Unfortunately Bob got it wrong and what Kevin was suggesting was that some of our members should chip in and buy a gyroplane so that more people could fly without the high initial cost of owning a gyroplane by themselves.

**New Business** - [NWAAC](#) has a member that is a medical doctor that is in the business of doing the medical for pilots. If you need to renew your third class medical, or whatever, his name is Steven A. Wahls, MD, FAAFP he's at Oregon Health Science University Family Medicine, 51377 Old Portland Road, Suite C. Scappoose, OR 97056. If you need an appointment he can be reached at (503) 418-4222 or (503) 543-3181, [justwahls@gmail.com](mailto:justwahls@gmail.com).

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

## 2011 Rotorcraft Calendar

### **Bensen Days - Sunstate Wing & Rotor (PRA 26) Apr 6-11, Wauchula, FL**

Regional event is focused on gyroplanes, and rivals or exceeds the annual PRA convention in size. ([Info](#))

### **GNWSRA Annual BBQ (PRA 73) Apr 9, Scappoose (OR) Industrial Airport**

This year's annual BBQ meeting will celebrate 22 years of Chapter 73.

### **ARC Days - Arizona Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15) May 13-15, San Manuel, AZ**

Info: (520) 840-0186

### **Colorado Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 38) Fly-In May 21, Meadow Lake Airport, CO.**

PRA's newest chapter invites you to its fly-in at a pilot-owned airport near Colorado Springs. ([Info](#)).

### **Rotors Over The Rockies - UT Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 2) Jun 9-11, Brigham City, UT**

Admission and on-airport camping are free. Food, awards, manufacturers, more! ([Info](#))

### **Vertical Challenge - Hiller Aviation Museum Jun 18, San Carlos, CA**

Helicopter-oriented airshow in its 12th year. ([Info](#))

### **Colorado Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 38) Fly-In Jul 16, Meadow Lake Airport, CO. [Info](#).**

### **Homer Bell Meet - Homer K. Bell Consulting Jul 21-23, Hillsboro, OH**

Homer provides consulting and other services for builders of kit helicopters. Venue is a farm - may require VTOL capability. ([Info](#))

### **EAA AirVenture - Exp. Aircraft Association Jul 25-31, Oshkosh, WI**

The largest fly-in in the world. Type club gatherings and group fly-ins, seminars, workshops. Rotorcraft flight limited to Ultralight Village, certain hours. Camping adjacent to Wittman Regional Airport. Volunteers recruited from EAA chapters. ([Info](#))

### **PRA Convention - Popular Rotorcraft Assoc. Aug 2-6, Mentone, IN**

This event in 2010 drew 70 rotorcraft and 55 powered parachutes. Annual members meeting, on-field camping and food. ([Info](#))

### **Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In Ken Brock Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 1) Sep 23-25, El Mirage, CA**

This legendary event takes place on a dry lake bed with enough room for gyro-glidors, a taste of the old-school, west coast gyrocopter scene, and a Saturday night corn roast at the Brock Ranch. ([Info](#))

*Western Rotorcraft*

## Gyroplanes For Sale



**SC VORTEX** - 582 greyhead, N-number surrendered. **REDUCED! - \$12k.** Richard, (360) 431-6817, forfunandsun@yahoo.com. ([More info](#). OR, 09/10)



**VANCRAFT** - E-LSA; Rotax 503, digital panel, hyd. Brakes, trailer incl. \$8,950 OBO. Clint, (503) 775-7372. Scappoose. ([More info](#). OR, 09/10)

## Hangars Available

**Scappoose Industrial Airport, OR** - Large hangar currently houses three gyroplanes, room for one more. Room enough for 30'-plus rotor. \$55/month. Contact Clint Martindale, (503) 775-7372.

**Scappoose Industrial Airport, OR** - Traditional T-hangar, room for two gyros with rotors. Eliminate the time and effort of mounting blades every time you fly! Contact Jim Shawcross, (503) 997-6066.

*Western Rotorcraft is edited by Paul Plack and published monthly for participating PRA chapters. Reach Paul at [secretary@utahrotorcraft.org](mailto:secretary@utahrotorcraft.org).*